



Water Quality Technical Forum Report

Chlorine Residual and Coliform Data

There were no positive coliform samples in purveyor areas during February 2006. Average chlorine residual concentrations in the purveyor distribution systems ranged from 0.3 to 1.1 mg/L, with an overall average of 0.9 mg/L. The target chlorine residual at the Tolt Treatment facility is 1.5 mg/L and the Cedar target residual is 1.4 mg/L. There have been very few samples with chlorine less than 0.2 mg/L and no positive HPC samples.

Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is meeting every other week. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9 representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the Cedar supply (Lake Youngs treated) samples in February were 1.6 and 1.8. The two Tolt supply results were 1. and 1.3 with a slight chlorinous taste. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at moya.joubert@seattle.gov.

The spring algae bloom appears to have peaked in Lake Youngs in mid March. The algae have not been affecting the taste, but may cause an increase in filter clogging calls.

Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products

Each water system that purchases water from Seattle will be required to develop an Initial Distribution System Evaluation plan and submit it to EPA by October 1, 2006. Systems can choose to do either one year of DBP monitoring or a system specific study using a hydraulic model. Systems that purchase water through a contract with Seattle will have the cost of the DBP analyses covered as part of the rates. However, because of the significant sampling requirements of the IDSE, sample collection will be the purveyors responsibility. IDSE sampling will likely begin in the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2007. There are many guidance documents from EPA to help systems develop these plans. These are available at <http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/disinfection/stage2/compliance.html>. Wendy Marshall at EPA Region 10 will be reviewing and approving the IDSE plans. If you have any questions, please contact her at marshall.wendy@epa.gov or phone at 206-553-1890. SPU will be working with our purveyors over the next six months on plan items such as scheduling and water quality data analysis. Lynn Kirby will be the main point of contact for Stage 2 DBP rule for SPU.

SPU Contact: Wylie Harper, 206 684-7880 or Lynn Kirby, 206 684-0216.



Conservation Technical Forum

On the web at <http://www.savingwater.org>

MARKETING

New WashWise POP Advertising in Stores Now
The new point-of-purchase advertising campaign is now in full swing at WashWise area retailers. New colorful banners that stand freely from the

ground are now being used to educate customers about the benefits of purchasing a WashWise washer. In addition new colorful magnetic signs have been added to WashWise qualified washers in the showroom. The POP campaign was developed after surveys showed that most people don't think about the types of washers available until they show up to the dealer in need of one.

New Watering Index to debut on KOMO TV News

A new watering index is being developed with KOMO TV to be used during the weather segments in nightly newscasts. The watering index will be used to inform residential customers how much they should water each day. The plan is for weather casters such as Steve Pool to announce each day's percentage of the index, saying something such as "today's water index is 55 percent." The information would be reinforced by an education campaign to help homeowners understand the index. KOMO is piloting the index concept. It is hoped all the other TV stations will want to add the watering index information to their daily weather segments.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Upgrades Planned for Youth Ed Web Page

Making on-line learning fun and rewarding for kids is the goal of a planned web page upgrade. It is being driven by the positive response to the Waterbusters conservation game, and the need to make it more user-friendly. Upgrades are being developed to provide easy access to a variety of existing downloadable games and activities as well as links to new ones contained on other sites. The page will be linked to the existing Teachers and Kids page and should be completed in time for summer home use. It will coincide with this year's planned television ad campaign for Waterbusters.

RESIDENTIAL INDOOR

Showerhead and Aerator Replacement Program

After reviewing the evaluation results of the

showerhead and aerator replacement pilot program conducted in 2005, the decision has been made to proceed with a regional distribution. Customers that participated in the pilot programs are very happy with the new better than code plumbing fixtures they received. Staff will begin requesting single family data from wholesales partners in the second week of March in order to prepare a mailing inviting customer to receive a free showerhead and faucet aerator. The data that will be requested is name, address, and zip code of single family customers in your service territory. Using direct-mail service we will send them a brochure explaining the benefits to their family by exchanging the old showerhead and aerator, for the new better than code fixtures. Thanks to Highline Water District and Water District 119 for allowing us to pilot the program in their service territory. More detail of the regional program will be forth coming.

WashWise Rebate Processing Outsourcing

Outsourcing of WashWise rebate processing is currently being negotiated with Portland Energy Conservation, Inc. (PECI) in Portland, Oregon to gain efficiencies and to manage staffing adjustments following SPU reorganization. PECI currently processes rebates for Cascade Water Alliance and Puget Sound Energy, and have proven to be capable of providing a quick turn-around of rebates, great follow-up and overall good management. Rebates processed in 2005 totaled 6,466 with 36.5% of rebates from purveyor areas.

Multi-Family Toilet Rebate Program

The MFTR program will continue through June 30, 2006 with no significant changes planned at this time. Properties with four or more units that have not replaced their toilets prior to 1992 are eligible for either the free toilet (Toto or Western Pottery model) provided by SWP, or an \$80 rebate for each toilet replaced. Total number of toilets installed for 2005 was 4,676 in 283 buildings throughout the Saving Water Partnership territory.

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE

Spring Savvy Gardener Classes to be Offered in 2006

Staff is lining up classes for the 2006 spring series. This year, the classes will be incorporated into the Northwest Natural Yard Days promotion (April 15 – May 15). Both the classes and the Yard Days promotion are aimed at encouraging residential gardeners to use products and practices that conserve and protect natural resources. Class topics, speakers and venues will be finalized by March 1, with the class schedule posted on savingwater.org by March 15.

Benchmark Conservation Survey to be Conducted in 2006

Planning for a regional water survey is now underway, to assess attitudes and behaviors relating to water use and conservation. The first such survey since 2001, this “benchmarking” survey will again cover both direct and wholesale service areas. We are working with a consultant and will involve our wholesale partners in planning.

New Landscapes

RC staff is providing limited technical assistance, via consultant, to developers who wish to make landscapes in new commercial/multi-family construction more water efficient. Wholesale customers are welcome to contact the RC project manager if they have projects in their service areas for which they would like to request technical assistance for landscape water conservation. The technical assistance includes review and comments on plans for soils, irrigation design and plant selection.

COMMERCIAL

Irrigation Contractor Trainings Big Hit!

Over 50 contractors and facility maintenance personnel attended a variety of irrigation trainings sponsored by SWP and the Washington Irrigation Contractors Association (WICA). Classes offered

included the Irrigation Water Management Societies' (www.iwms.org) Site Water Management Planning course and certification, the Irrigation Association's Drip Irrigation course, and the new SWP Irrigation Scheduling course designed specifically to utilize the www.iwms.org on-line irrigation scheduling tools for the SWP area. Additional training opportunities will be available in June of this year.

Ongoing Commercial Projects in SWP Area

As a reminder to all there are two really good water saving programs ongoing in your territory. First is the Commercial Washer Replacement Program. With the help of our partner Puget Sound Energy (PSE) SWP is offering incentives to Laundromats that replace old inefficient washing machine with new efficient ones. Laundromat owners can expect \$300 from SWP and \$200 from PSE per machine. The list of qualifying machines can be found at; <http://cee1.org/>.

The second program is Commercial Toilet Replacement. Businesses can replace their old pre-1994 toilets with new water saving toilets. Business owners can choose either an \$80. rebate option or a free toilet option. Those wanting to participate can look at the “FlushStar” list posted at www.savingwater.org for toilets that best fit their business needs. If you know of any business owners that would like to participate in either program please contact Arece Hampton.

Key Challenges for Science Identified by the USGS to Support Western Water Management

Ensuring stable water supplies has grown more complex as the challenges facing water managers continue to mount, especially in the West. Informed decisions of water users and public officials will be necessary to ensure sufficient freshwater resources in the future to support a growing population and economy. The USGS has released a report that examines Western water availability, the modern role for science, and the

value of monitoring and research to ensure an adequate water supply for the Nation's future.

According to USGS scientist and coauthor of the report, Mark T. Anderson, "Effective water management in the West is challenged by increasing and often competing needs among various water users: agricultural use and consumption by cities, maintaining water reservoirs and ensuring in-stream flows for aquatic ecosystems, industrial and energy production, and recreation. Scientific information becomes a crucial factor for resource managers to support their decision-making."

Such factors as a demographic shift, climate variability (including the potential for severe sustained droughts), climate change, water-rights issues, depletion of ground water in storage, introduction of new storage and water use technologies, and protection of endangered species, add to a growing complexity for water management. Several of the key scientific challenges are examined in this report, including the determination of sustainable ground-water use and the physical habitat needs of ecosystems and individual endangered species.

According to USGS Associate Director for Water, Robert Hirsch, "A constant and assured supply of fresh water is critical to sustain our economy, our communities, our ecosystems and our Nation." This USGS report shows how the role and

priorities for science to support effective water management are changing to meet current and future issues.

Scientific information plays an important role in describing the hydrologic and environmental consequences, quantifying and monitoring changes in the hydrologic system, defining the physical-habitat requirements of stream and riparian ecosystems, and characterizing the life-sustaining needs of threatened or endangered species. The conduct of science to support water resource management is bringing about a new and more integrated role for the science of the U.S. Geological Survey.

This report brings together findings from a wide variety of USGS studies and data in a manner that will help citizens and public officials better understand changing water situations in the West and the ways that new scientific understanding can support wise management of the resources.

The USGS report cites examples and scientific challenges from four basins in the West that have significant water availability and sustainability concerns: Middle Rio Grande Basin, NM., the Greater Los Angeles area, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, AZ, and the Upper Klamath Lake, OR.

The report, Water Availability for the Western United States-- Key Scientific Challenges (Circular 1261), can be obtained by calling 1-888-ASK-USGS or viewed online at <http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/circ1261/>. Story website: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=1443>